IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application of MINEMURA et al.)
)
Appli	cation Number: To be Assigned)
Filed:	Concurrently Herewith)
For:	Information Reproducing Method and Information Reproducing Apparatus)
ATTO	PNEV DOCKET NO HIR A 0142)

Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

REQUEST FOR PRIORITY UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119 AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Sir:

In the matter of the above-captioned application for a United States patent, notice is hereby given that the Applicant claims the priority date of October 31, 2003, the filing date of the corresponding Japanese patent application 2003-372885.

A certified copy of Japanese patent application 2003-372885 is being submitted herewith. Acknowledgment of receipt of the certified copy is respectfully requested in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher

Registration Number 24,344

REED SMITH LLP 3110 Fairview Park Drive

Suite 1400 Falls Church, Virginia 22042

(703) 641-4200

February 10, 2004

Juan Carlos A Marquez

Registration Number 34,072

(Translation)

JAPAN PATENT OFFICE

This is to certify that the annexed is a true copy of the following application as filed with this Office.

Date of Application: October 31, 2003

Application Number:

Japanese Patent Application

No. 2003-372885

Applicant(s):

Hitachi, Ltd.

Hitachi-LG Data Strage, Inc.

January 9, 2004

Commissioner, Japan Patent Office

Yasuo Imai (seal)

Certificate No. 2003-3110337